

The Times - Dispatch

DAILY—WEEKLY—SUNDAY.

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 1911.

MR. TAFT'S MISTAKE.

Here it is again. Mr. Taft made a mistake when he did not ask the New York World what he ought to do about handling for the protection of the American border and American interests in our neighboring Republic the admittedly grave situation in Mexico. "No American citizens engaged in peaceful pursuits in their own country were shot by Mexican combatants until after the United States troops had been mobilized in Texas. Mr. Taft could have protected American interests much better by strengthening the border patrols than by making a spectacular military demonstration. It is time the country had official information that would explain the Administration's Mexican policy. The game has been played in the dark long enough."

Certainly it has. Mr. Taft should tell the newspapers all about it. That is the way to handle all questions of this sort and the only way, even if the newspapers would not accept the explanations of the President as satisfactory. Explanation after explanation has already been made, to the members of the Congress committees, to all persons who have had the least right to know what was going on, and all these committees and other persons whom the President has taken into his confidence have expressed themselves as being entirely satisfied with what the President has done so far; but the mistake he made was in not giving out for publication the entire correspondence he has had with the diplomatic representatives of the Government in Mexico, and in not admitting the reporters to all the confidential conferences he has held with members of the Senate and House at Washington. What he ought to have done was to fight it all out in the newspapers. It might have been well for him to have simply strengthened the border patrols, but this he should have done in the quietest way, so that nobody would have known anything about it, and the patrols should have been made up of men that he picked up on the border instead of the soldiers of the Army. The soldiers should have been kept in their quarters at their various regular posts, with none but their regular duties to perform for the sake of avoiding a spectacular demonstration on the border. It is really wonderful how much better the World would have managed this whole affair if it had been informed in time of what was going to happen.

It is hoped, however, that the United States will be able to pull through without great disaster, as Diaz has given assurances that hereafter there shall be no fighting near enough the American line to let the bullets come over on our side. If the border had been simply patrolled, even by an increased patrol, it might have been that the insurgents and the Regulars would have selected some place near the American border for their target practice—even the patrol might not have been able to prevent the bullets from coming over into Texas; but neither side understood how offensive such hostilities would have been to the Boss-Boss of the whole Western Hemisphere. We would suggest that Mr. Taft should now insist that both sides shall confine their shooting to their own country. That ought to be satisfactory to the World, and, naturally, to all the rest of the strategists who do not know, but think they know, how this sort of war should be conducted.

A HORSE PARADE IN RICHMOND.
 There is to be in Baltimore a great parade of the work horses of that town. The Street Cleaning Department will send fifty teams to take part in the parade. Private organizations have been invited to send teams for competition, and special invitations have been sent to the United Railway Company, the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, and also to Fort Howard for horses, and to the various hospitals for ambulances, with the idea that the parade should be made as varied and as complete as possible. At least three bands will furnish music for the occasion. Prizes will be awarded to the teams making the best appearance. A special feature in the parade will be a class of "reconstructed" horses, covering such animals as have been beaten or injured by brutal drivers and which, by proper care, have been brought back to normal condition.

This Baltimore parade is not an entirely new thing. Parades of the same description have been given in other larger towns of the country, and we wish that one might be organized for the owners of horses and for the horses. It makes the public take a more practical interest in the treatment of the dumb animals which contribute so much to the life and activity and prosperity of the community. Virginia is a great horse country. Many of the

finest horses and mules that have been marketed in the United States were raised in this Commonwealth. The horses and mules would be better horses and mules if they were properly taken care of. A parade of the work horses of this town would be of immense benefit to their owners and their drivers and keepers as well. This is a movement which the local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals might very well approve. Such a parade as that to be given in Baltimore would make the well meaning community of Richmond take a better and more humane interest in the "poor, dumb driven cattle" that serve them and help them to gather new grain into their barns.

A GOVERNMENT RAILROAD.

Two years ago the French Government acquired control of the Western Railway in that country. In the last six months ninety-two people have been killed outright on it by collisions and derailments and other accidents. It will take \$200,000,000 to put it in good condition. It is lacking in equipment and its rails rest on rotten ties. It needs \$75,000,000 for tracks and buildings and \$35,000,000 for rolling stock. On the main line from Cherbourg to Paris no reconstruction has been done for twenty years. The road is built on many dangerous curves, the signals are insufficient, and on the line from Caen to Cherbourg, a distance of eighty-five miles, the rails are nine feet long and weigh only eighty-four pounds. Yet over this road, the road that Americans travel when they go to Paris, the trains run at the rate of seventy miles the hour. The wonder is not that ninety people were killed in six months, but that any of the passengers escaped with their lives.

We do not know how the Government will raise the \$200,000,000 necessary to put this much traveled road in running condition, but if it was in the United States we should say that the first step towards the accomplishment of this end would be for the Government to reduce the freight rates and the passenger fares. If our own Interstate Commerce Commission would go over to France and see for themselves what Government ownership means in actual practice it might reach the conclusion that Government control without Government responsibility is not the best thing for our transportation facilities.

STILL "SERVING THE INTERESTS."

In reply to the inquiry of an apparently intelligent correspondent, "What does 'serving the interests' mean?" Bailey says in the Houston Post: "It is a political term, and its definition is questioning the wisdom of any doctrine favored by William Jennings Bryan or doubting his availability as a candidate for President." The answer is good enough, of course, but it does not answer. Everybody knows that all the doctrines favored by Mr. Bryan are wise, and therefore could not be questioned, except by fools, and everybody knows also that Mr. Bryan is available as a candidate for President, and the mere suggestion made by the organ of the Greasers in Texas that he is not available shows that the Houston Post has dropped a switch or two in its mental equipment. We know an available candidate when we see him, and from the morning after the last Presidential election down to the present moment, and continuously through the years that are to come, we have never doubted and never shall doubt the availability of Mr. Bryan as a candidate. What's availability, anyhow, except a disposition to take a nomination whenever it comes easy and is within reaching distance? But there is no use discussing any Democratic subject seriously with the Houston paper. It does not belong to our party.

NO WAR: NO PENSIONS.

One of the dangers of war with Mexico would be an increase of activity among the pension attorneys throughout this country. It is not the first cost of such a contest, or the continuing cost, that would count so much as the pensions we would have to pay for the next hundred years or so to the patriots who might lose their lives, or contract chills and fever, be stung by centipedes, or perchance, be bitten by the terrible Gila monster. We cannot be too careful about this feature or any other situation that can be worked up into a new lease of life for the pension agents who live on their pickings.

RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE WASTE.

Until the present excessive fire waste is reduced, substantial reductions in fire insurance rates cannot be expected. The losses last year in the United States and Canada were \$334,476,650, and this year there is reason to believe that the total will be at least \$300,000,000, since the figures for the first quarter of 1911 show losses of \$69,907,250, an increase of more than \$19,000,000 as compared with the same period of 1910.

Government officials, underwriters and firemen agree that most of these losses were due to carelessness, and were easily preventable. Almost all of the recent fires which have arrested public attention, because of the heavy loss of life thereby caused, have been chargeable to the carelessness and indifference of the owners, occupants or municipal authorities. Criminal carelessness with matches, allowing inflammable rubbish to accumulate, dangerous construction, lack of proper fire protection and other conditions favoring the starting and spread of fires were apparent in nearly every case. Few of those responsible are ever punished, and public interest as well as public indignation subsides very quickly.

What is needed, as the Chicago Record-Herald very aptly says, "is the enforcement of individual and municipal responsibility."

The greatest aid will come from the development in owners of a sense of personal responsibility for the excessive fire waste. This may be obtained through public education, or, that failing, through such a law as that now pending before the Ohio Legislature, imposing fine and imprisonment on those whose carelessness and negligence is responsible for fires. In Germany a fire is regarded as a crime, not a misfortune. That is the reason why fire losses in Germany are one-tenth what they are here.

SLOW-FOOTED.

Not only individuals, but the Government as well, suffers from the law's delay. As some one has said, since Justice is blind, she must of necessity move slowly. The present Standard Oil case is one in point—for it has been in process of argument and trial for more than five years, and the end is not yet. Three Attorney-Generals have been in office since the suit was started, and that which was begun by Moody and continued by Bonaparte and Wickesham may be ended in the sweet by and bye.

Here is the chronological record in the Standard Oil case:

January 22, 1906—Attorney-General Moody announced the prosecution.

November 15, 1906—Dissolution proceedings instituted in the Circuit Court at St. Louis.

September 17, 1907—First testimony taken at New York.

November 18, 1908—John D. Rockefeller testified.

January 22, 1909—Final testimony taken at Chicago.

March 9, 1909—Government filed its brief.

April 5, 1909—Arguments began in St. Louis.

June 1, 1909—Suit taken under advisement by the court.

November 20, 1909—Standard Oil declared to be an illegal combination and ordered dissolved.

December 17, 1909—The Standard appealed to the Supreme Court.

March 14, 1910—Supreme Court heard the appeal.

March 16, 1910—Closing arguments made.

April 11, 1910—The case ordered reargued by the Supreme Court.

January 12, 1911—Suit reargued.

How much better it would have been for both parties to the suit, how much better it would be for business conditions generally in this country, if such cases might be tried in a reasonable time! In the last analysis, it is the people themselves who suffer most from the weary way of litigation, especially when giant corporations are haled into the dock.

THE INDEFENSIBLE SYSTEM.

Out in Tennessee the fee system is being hammered all over the mat. The people of the Volunteer State have had just about enough of this graft-better, and they are preparing to cast it out. The Knoxville Sentinel, absolutely fearless of the attacks that may be made on it by fat fee officers, has joined forces with the Memphis News-Sentinel, and the mailed armor of the fee officer is ringing with a hail of hammering blows from these two influential newspapers.

The Sentinel, in a recent article, inquires why Tennessee made "less progress in the last ten years" than other States surrounding it. One of the two reasons assigned is that "the money collected from the tax-payers in this unjust manner is expended without due regard for economy, or the best service." In other words, the money of the people is wasted by the pernicious workings of the fee system.

Dr. Wayland goes on to say:

"In a few brief words, the only reason seems to be that the people at large buy the Northern magazines liberally, while they neglect the magazines published elsewhere. More specifically, even the people of the South do not subscribe liberally to Southern magazines. There are several magazines published in the South to-day, but it is safe to declare that none of them has more than a few hundred subscribers on its mailing list. Ah, say the wise ones, that is easy. These magazines are not up to the standard; give us a good magazine in the South and we will subscribe to it in preference to others."

There are at least two "first-class" literary magazines in the South, correctly points out Dr. Wayland. They do not receive a tithe of the support they deserve. These two magazines are the Sewanee Review and the South Atlantic Quarterly, one printed at the University of the South, and the other at Trinity College, in North Carolina. Dr. Wayland thinks—and we quite agree—that these two are "about as good" as the Atlantic Monthly, the final fortress of the New England combination in restraint of literature in other parts of the nation. The Atlantic Monthly has enough money behind it to come out each month, while the Southern reviews cannot make it more than quarterly. Of course, the Atlantic is fortified with traditions and memories—it has been the drill-ground for many a writer and near-writer in New England and the rest of the North.

In the American Historical Review, Professor Jameson, the famous historian, has placed the two Southern reviews in the same class with the Century, Lippincott's and the Review of Reviews. In Professor Jameson's list of "noteworthy" articles in periodicals, two are credited to the Century, two to Scribner's, and three to the South Atlantic Quarterly. Only one is credited to the Sewanee Review, but then the same number is credited to the Review of Reviews, Harper's, the Commonwealth, the Outlook, Lippincott's and the Atlantic Monthly.

To become popular, thinks Dr. Wayland, these Southern magazines—and he includes in his list Tom Watson's, and a few others of the same genus—will have to have a long subscription list, a wider circulation. This

is true, but we do not think any of the reviews of the North have any too long subscription lists—if so, it has been the result of decade after decade of patience and perseverance.

The truth of the matter is, however deplorable, that the review can never be what it was in the golden age of dignified periodicals half a century ago. Popular taste has greatly changed. In those days, the reviews, with their strict formal literary tone, were popular because, forsooth, there was nothing else to read. The reviews thrived and prospered in the forties and fifties because they had no competition. The Sunday supplement, the weekly periodicals, were unknown then.

Popular taste has changed vastly since then. As the newspaper has undergone radical and almost revolutionary alteration, so has the popular magazine. The reading public want something light, snappy, and up-to-the-minute in their magazines, just as they do in their newspapers. The old style review, with its critical essays, its serious verse, its formal treatment, is now limited to a select and small circle of readers, while the millions clamor for the ten and fifteen-center with its thrills and pictures, its sensational articles, its crisp stories. The essay in the serious form is unknown in the popular periodical of the day.

It is a fact deducible from the present situation that no magazine directed by Southern enterprise and brains will succeed within a reasonable time or perhaps at all in being popular, unless it be able to compete with the magazines already on the market, with their finely trained specialists, their special writers and correspondents, their great plants, their command of talent, their disposition to spend money "to get the goods." No magazine exploiting a section has ever succeeded or will succeed. Only a magazine national in scope can succeed. There have been excellent attempts to establish magazines delineating the life, the people, the memories of the South, but they have failed, however commendable their purpose. When Southern capital is interested in putting out a great magazine, as good in every respect as any other in the country, and constructed to suit popular taste, then only shall we have a great magazine in the South.

Dr. Lyon's PERFECT Tooth Powder

is packed in a dust-tight metal box, with patent measuring tube, which is both safe and convenient for tourists.

put on a par with our neighbors, but will, we believe, go ahead of any of them."

Yes, when the people are wise enough to see that the fee system really robs them—that the tax-payer gets it in the neck, while the tax-eater gets it in his pocket—then these States which have been hampered and retarded by the fee system will go forward, rid of this Frankenstein of graft, political corruption, bossism, local and general, which as long as it exists is a reproach upon a free people. When, for performing the duties of an office which requires very little intelligence, a petty politician receives twice as much salary as a Judge does for his high services, it is about time to start over again.

BIRMINGHAM SLOGANS.

Birmingham is not reclining on her laurels, but is keeping right along the same old lines of city booming and city boosting. The newspapers of "The Magic City" are always sounding its praises.

Here are some "slogans" from the Birmingham News, which show how the city is being advertised:

"Birmingham, the bright spot trading center of Alabama and adjoining States."

"Week-end rates on the railroads."

"Your railroad fare refunded if you trade in Birmingham."

"Special two-day rates on Southern and Frisco."

"Stop-overs allowed on all tourist tickets."

"Splendid accommodation schedules to and from Birmingham."

"Birmingham, the trade and pleasure metropolis of the South."

"Always something doing in Birmingham."

"Big, bright, busy Birmingham wants your trade."

"Unexcelled shopping facilities in Birmingham."

"Special offerings by merchants of Birmingham."

"Week-end rates at the hotels."

"Birmingham wants your trade—will do all it can to secure and keep it."

This is an attractive statement of the commercial advantages of the city in question, and some of it is true. To make a city grow, there is nothing like keeping everlastingly at it.

SOUTHERN MAGAZINES.

In the Harrisonburg News, Dr. John W. Wayland laments the fact that Southern magazines are not given the support which they deserve. Citing DeBow's Review, the Southern Review, the Southern Quarterly Review and the Southern Literary Messenger of a past generation, he wonders why the North has at present a monopoly in magazines. "Why is it that now it seems so difficult—not to say impossible—to have a great magazine in the Southern States?" he inquires, marveling that successful magazines must have the impress of New York, Boston or Philadelphia on them.

Dr. Wayland goes on to say:

"In a few brief words, the only reason seems to be that the people at large buy the Northern magazines liberally, while they neglect the magazines published elsewhere. More specifically, even the people of the South do not subscribe liberally to Southern magazines. There are several magazines published in the South to-day, but it is safe to declare that none of them has more than a few hundred subscribers on its mailing list. Ah, say the wise ones, that is easy. These magazines are not up to the standard; give us a good magazine in the South and we will subscribe to it in preference to others."

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"The O. O.'s" is the way the Virginia Citizen refers to the beloved Orange Observer—the "O's" meaning "one, only, original, Orange Observer." Also, ontolized.

The Orange Observer says she wouldn't think of saying nice things about a married man. Shucks! the Observer doesn't care whether they are married or not.

"The blossom will soon be on the dogwood," quoth the Orange Observer. Yes, but you can't see it in Orange for the mint bloom!

"Robert E. Lee has been elected Mayor of Springfield, Mo. If he lives up to the name, Springfield ought under his administration to become a pretty fine town." That's what the Chicago Record-Herald thinks about it, and everybody will agree.

It is explained that the Mohammedan who killed a United States Army officer in Manila several days ago was bound by his oath as a Mohammedan to shed the blood of the Christians. Of course, he should never have taken an oath of that sort, and he ought to have been very careful about carrying it out after he had taken it; but he is to be commended all the same for doing what he swore he would do. The Christians should now perform their duty by hanging or shooting the Mohammedan on the principle of an eye for an eye, a life for a life.

Miss Mary S. Snow, superintendent of household arts in the Chicago public schools, has filed a protest against theoretics arithmetic, with which so many young persons have been almost worried to death in this country, as, for example, in the case of the frog at the bottom of a well sixty feet deep which climbed up three feet at night, fell back two feet in the day, and his whereabouts at the end of two weeks, and this other example, which Miss Snow is said to have invented herself: "When should a chicken, which requires 1 1/2 hours' cooking be put in the oven to be ready for 6 o'clock dinner?" We should think that it would be better to boil a chicken like that; but that is not the question. We agree with Miss Snow that this method of teaching arithmetic ought to be changed.

It required half a dozen policemen to keep in order the great crowd that flocked to the First Congregational Church in San Francisco Sunday morning to hear the Rev. Dr. A. K. A. K. John D. Rockefeller's late pastor, preach his first sermon as the new shepherd of that flock. Hundreds were turned away. His subject was "Cheerful Christianity," and the general direction of his preaching was that "Christians should spread sunshine throughout the world." There wasn't anything very exciting about that, and it will probably be found that next Sunday not more than three policemen will be required to keep off the crowd.

Father Doherty would settle the disturbance in Christ Church at Norfolk by having the whole congregation to come over to the Catholic Church in a body. Why not? But even there the rector of the Church, if, indeed, he should be continued in that office, would be subject to authority. The lesson that we all have to learn, in Church as well as State, is obedience to authority. Little can be accomplished without it.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

Harris ANTI-DYSPEPTIC Water "Begets Health"

Will stay in the stomach when nothing else will—
 "Ask anyone who has tried it"

Sold by all druggists—just as it flows from the spring.

J. A. MORRIS & CO., Distributors
 211 North 6th St., Richmond, Va.

Daily Queries and Answers

The Power of the Press.

I wish some points for an essay, "The Power of the Press." Any aid you could give me on the subject would be much appreciated. A. B. C.

You can get all the points you wish by consulting various books in the State Library, especially the Index of "Modern Eloquence."

The Amelia Quadrangle.

In reply to J. B. Chandler's request for information as to the place where the Amelia Quadrangle may be obtained, we are informed that the same was obtained at 5 cents the sheet from the United States Geological Survey at Washington, D. C. Remittances must be by money order or in cash, as stamps are not accepted.

Dr. Elizer's Address.

The address of Dr. M. G. Elizer requested yesterday is 103 Third Avenue, Highland Park, Va.

John S. Sargent.

Will you answer if John Singer Sargent, the artist, is living? If so, where? If not, please give date of death. A. B. C.

He is living at 21 T. Street, Chelsea, S. W., London, England.

Reno.

Is it true that all women who go to Reno, Nev., to commence an action for divorce must remain within the State for six months? A. B. C.

The law of the State that no one who has not been a resident of the

State for six months can begin such an action. This department is informed that at the time of making an action in that State the plaintiff has to reside in that State for six months continuously prior to the beginning of the action.

Voltaire.

Who was Voltaire, and when and where was he born?

Francois Marie de Arouet de Voltaire was one of the notable French writers. He was born in Paris, France, November 24, 1694, and died May 30, 1778.

Birmingham.

What is the population of Birmingham, Ala., according to the census of 1910? What was it at the previous census?

In 1910 it was 132,685, in 1900 it was 88,415.

Her Parents.

Name the parents of the Princess Patricia of Connaught.

Arthur, Duke of Connaught, and Princess Louise of Prussia.

Scap.

Is a teacher a right to put road in the mouth of a pupil as a punishment?

No. C. R.

Pictures.

Can pictures taken on postal cards be enlarged?

Yes. E. M.

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